


Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph 32 beginning at page 7, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

 [32] In a single unidirectional bridge application, two I²C domains are separated by a bridge constructed, as described below, with a single microcontroller chip. Since the bridge constructed in this manner is a unidirectional bridge, transactions may pass only in one direction - from a port-A side of the bridge to a port-B side. However, the direction of data flow can be bi-directional, allowing both reads and writes. Used in this manner, the bridge device can act as a sort of "firewall." For example, suppose an I²C implementation contains multiple masters, and one of these masters is not multimaster capable. By placing the non-multimaster-capable master by itself on the port-A bus, and connecting the other masters and all slave devices on the port-B bus, the non-multimaster device on the port-A bus would be able to communicate with all the devices on the port-B bus (through the bridge), but would be freed from the burden of handling the many complexities of multimaster I²C. A detailed disclosure of a firewall device constructed in this manner is set forth in United States patent application serial number 09/630,099, now U.S. Patent No. 6,591,322, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING SINGLE MASTER DEVICES TO A MULTIMASTER WIRED-AND BUS ENVIRONMENT, filed on August 1, 2000 by Joseph J. Ervin and Jorge E. Lach, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.